WHOOPI GOLDBERG
Los Angeles, CA 90038

September 11, 1992

Dear Friend,

I've never *heard* of such a thing! Trying to constitutionally *deny* rights rather than *protect* rights. Trying to dehumanize people. And in Colorado ... beautiful Colorado.

I take it back. I have heard of such a thing. But from another era, 50 years ago, in another part of the world. (Or was it closer to home and more recent than we wish?)

Okay. This *is* America and it's almost the 21st Century, right? It's 1992 but there are still right wing zealots with nothing better to do than attack gays and lesbians and their civil rights allies like me.

Some of these zealots are shrewd, southern California businessmen who know how to make a buck for their cause. They get on television and sound the financial alarm: "The homosexuals are coming, the homosexuals are coming! Send money to Rev. Lou Sheldon and he'll make them go away."

What is America coming to?

A resurgence of the Far Right and the Religious Right, that's what! They're on the November 3rd ballot in Colorado with a proposal to amend the state constitution with a proposal that says: "Okay, folks, it is now officially legal to discriminate against people because they are gay!"

I can't believe this! But the danger is a lot of voters will believe it. We all have to pool our resources to help defeat Colorado's Amendment #2.

Every American who cherishes individual liberty is threatened by this blatant attack on equal protection. Recently there have been more and more incidents of racism, anti-semitism, and gay-bashing in our country. Consider:

- David Duke uses the "no special rights" theme and says he's not a racist...
- Hitler's birthday is celebrated by the Ku Klux Klan in Denver...
- The United States military says gays are a security risk (except please stay in uniform long enough to fight in Desert Storm)...

We must not foster an atmosphere for more hate crimes in our towns and cities. We must not let innocent people be used as shields for the extremists' intolerance.

The mean-spirited power base in Orange County, California -- known as the Traditional Values Coalition -- has spawned chapters around the country to ignite hatred of homosexuals, pro-choice advocates, the arts and textbooks deemed "too liberal."

In Colorado, a group called (what else?) "*Colorado for Family Values*" has been organized. They must be stopped, or the Far Right will move like an army to other states. As long as it makes money for the Far Right, gaybashing will be their war chant.

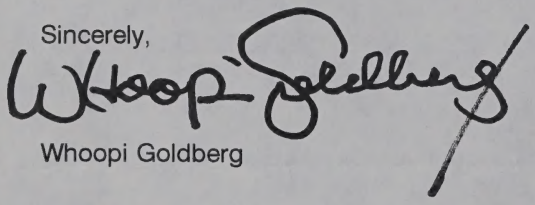
Please support our friends who are working hard to defeat Constitutional Amendment #2 on the November ballot. The campaign is EPOColorado, the Equal Protection Campaign. This group has already won a major battle against the Far Right's effort to repeal Denver's law extending civil rights protection on the basis of sexual orientation. Now EPOColorado needs dollars to fight against the hate campaign from California that has taken root in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

Help EPOColorado win a fight against oppression and bigotry that is a fight for all of us. Please be generous. Only precious weeks remain to deliver the message:

Vote NO on #2.

We're counting on you.

Sincerely,



Whoopi Goldberg

PS. Don't lay this aside. Read it again, if you need to, and please write a check.

Authorized and paid for by EPOColorado.
Maria Garcia Berry, Treasurer. LTR078 Printing donated.

WHOEVER GETS THE MOST VOTES ... WINS.

It's as simple as that. So ... are you registered to vote? Are you sure?

Unless you're registered, your voice against Amendment #2 can't be heard! We simply can't afford to be without your vote. And time is running out. If you **are** registered, help defeat Amendment #2 by finding one unregistered acquaintance and getting them registered. "Friends don't let friends fail to register."

Deadline to register is October 9th.
Call your county election clerk now to learn how.

Here's one opportunity: Voter registration will be held at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center on Saturday, September 26th, from 10 am to 1 pm. (1245 E. Colfax Ave., Room 125)

Register *now*. Vote NO on #2 on the November ballot.

Authorized and paid for by EPOColorado, Inc. Maria Garcia Berry, Treasurer CRD097

Help us get a "NO" vote on Amendment #2 and stop the Religious Right in Colorado

(Sample Ballot)

SHALL THERE BE AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT THE STATE OF COLORADO AND ANY OF ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS FROM ADOPTING OR ENFORCING ANY LAW OR POLICY WHICH PROVIDES THAT HOMOSEXUAL, LESBIAN, OR BISEXUAL ORIENTATION, CONDUCT, OR RELATIONSHIPS CONSTITUTES OR ENTITLES A PERSON TO CLAIM ANY MINORITY OR PROTECTED STATUS, QUOTA PREFERENCES, OR *CLAIM OF DISCRIMINATION?*

NO

Please send your contribution to help in the fight against legalized discrimination -- before the Far Right takes its show on the road to even more states!

From coast to coast, the word is out ...

THE NEW YORK TIMES **NATIONAL** SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1992

From New York

Colorado to Vote on Barring Gay-Rights Laws

DENVER, May 23 (AP) — A proposal that would bar any civil rights measures intended specifically to protect homosexuals, lesbians or bisexuals has won enough support to be placed on the November ballot in Colorado, and leaders throughout the state are already choosing sides.

Colorado for Family Values, a group formed to "stop gay activists before they trample on your freedoms," received word from Secretary of State Natalie Meyer last week that its initiative would appear on the ballot. The group had gathered 65,000 valid signatures in support of the proposal, 16,000 more than needed.

The measure would prohibit the state from passing any civil rights laws specifically protecting homosexuals, lesbians or bisexuals. In addition, it would void existing laws in Denver, Boulder and Aspen that ban anti-gay bias in housing, employment and health and welfare services.

Kevin Tebedo, founder of Colorado for Family Values, said the initiative had sprung from the group's successful campaign against a gay rights measure in Colorado Springs last year. Homosexuals already have protections under the United States Constitution, Mr. Tebedo said, and do not need "special rights."

Mr. Tebedo's initiative has won support from the University of Colorado's football coach, Bill McCartney, who has called homosexuality "an abomination of almighty God," and from former Senator Bill Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong, a Republican who served in the Senate from 1978 to 1990, wrote in a fund-raising letter for the initiative that further civil rights protections would "force you and me to give our state's legal blessing to aberrant homosexual behavior and life styles."

He also described the AIDS epidemic as the "self-created miseries of pleasure-addicted gays" and said taxpayers should not have to shoulder the burden of AIDS treatment through higher insurance premiums.

The opponents are being organized by a group called the Equal Protection Campaign, which calls the measure an attempt at "legalized discrimination." They argue that housing and employment protections for homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals are not specified in the Constitution.

Among the opponents is Gov. Roy Romer, who has said he will not "allow Colorado to become a place where prejudice has a home."

Also opposing the initiative is Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver, who said, "Those who would legislate discrimination do not represent the family values I was raised with or the family values of the majority of people of Denver or of this state."

Far Right Targets Gay Rights

by David O'Connor

Gays and lesbians across the country are under siege from a new wave of homophobes determined to quash civil rights.

Ultra-conservative groups in Alabama, Colorado and Oregon are pushing anti-gay and AIDSphobic legislation that would repeal rights already won and legalize further discrimination. Lesbian and gay leaders believe these groups are united in a national campaign to turn back civil rights.

"We're in a battle for the soul of America, and these attacks have far-reaching implications," said Robert Bray, spokesperson for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "These are test case attacks against the gay community. If they succeed, we know that the far right will refine and implement these attacks in other states.

"What's particularly scary about these measures is they're pro-active and actually encourage and mandate discrimination against gays," Bray said. "In the past, the far right has aimed at overturning gay rights legislation; these measures actually put society on record as deploring gays and denying rights."

Alabama activists met April 4 to plan action against several measures before the state legislature there. The state Senate Health Committee already has approved a

(Continued on page 14)

To San Francisco

They're talking about Colorado ...

THE DENVER POST

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

Final Edition / 25 cents
35 cents in Designated Areas

Armstrong: Gays 'a grave threat'

Armstrong

SIGNED: Petitions against gay rights' initiative delivered./**18A**

Ex-senator opposes rights initiative

By Virginia Culver
Denver Post Religion Writer

Former U.S. Sen. Bill Armstrong has called on Coloradans to turn back a "very grave threat" from gays who want special civil rights protection and taxpayer support in their fight against AIDS.

Homosexuals are trying to "force you and me to condone and give our state's legal blessing to aberrant homosexual behavior and lifestyles," Armstrong wrote in the letter seeking financial support for a ballot initiative to block new civil rights protection for gays.

The letter blames the AIDS epidemic on the "self-created personal miseries of pleasure-addicted gays" and said comparing that "with the innocent sufferings and crippling poverty of legitimate minority groups is an insult to those who've struggled to achieve true civil rights in America."

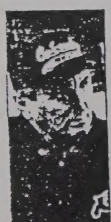
A gay leader said the letter contains "blatant lies." A former Armstrong supporter called it "vile" and said it was laced with "unsubstantiated and inflammatory rhetoric."

The letter, which filled four, single-spaced typewritten pages, was mailed by Colorado for Family Values, a Colorado Springs group that is fighting gay rights laws at all levels of government. Armstrong is on the organization's advisory board, along with University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney.

McCartney drew fire last month when he held a news conference to explain his involvement with the organization and went on to label homosexuality an "abomination of almighty God."

Armstrong's letter said taxpayers shouldn't have to pay insurance costs for AIDS patients, 85 percent of whom are gay, because they are af-

Please see **ARMSTRONG** on 18A



COACH: McCartney states beliefs.

'Abomination'

McCartney: Bible clear on gays

Dear Post + 2-11-92

By Tracy Seipel
Denver Post Staff Writer

BOULDER — Sparing neither words nor feelings, University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney yesterday delivered one of his trademark punches, calling homosexuality "an abomination of Almighty God."

McCartney also said homosexuality is a behavior that can be "changed," if a gay person wants to change. "I want to be a man who tries to give young people an alternative to this kind of lifestyle," McCartney added.

Please. Respond to this national threat.
Help us stop the Far Right.
Before they get any further.